

# Local teacher organizes pet food drive



Angelena Chapman/Daily Times

Janet Mansour, of Janet's Doggy Bags Pet Food Drive, with the collection bin at the Stop and Shop in Coventry. Other collection bins have been set up at Stop and Shop locations around the state.

## Janet Mansour gives back

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COVENTRY—People's pets will have a chance to benefit from a local teacher's desire to give back.

Janet Mansour, who taught for years at the Alan Shawn Middle School in Coventry, is holding a pet food drive now until Aug. 14.

Mansour came up with the idea from her years of teaching at the Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School in Coventry where, she said, "community service is a part of the curriculum."

She took ideas from her classroom, where they often did things for local pet shelters, she said, to help create a project that would make an impact.

The result is the Janet's

Doggy Bags Pet Food Drive, which started on Monday.

She has partnered with Lesley Doonan from Volunteer Services for Animals (VSA)

According to their website, VSA is a non-profit humane organization started in 1979.

The pet food gathered during the next two weeks will go to mostly privately run shelters and organizations, Mansour said.

Some of the places that will benefit are the Jonah Community Center in Warwick, Pet Refuge in North Kingstown, the Coventry Community Food Bank, PawsWatch in Newport and the Northwest Animal Protection League in West Warwick.

The Northwest Animal Protection League has a network of foster homes for cats and dogs, Mansour said.

The privately run organizations are run almost entirely on donations, Mansour said.

Mansour hopes to help pet owners who are a part of the

working core and who are unemployed, she said.

She acknowledged that people are having trouble putting food on the table, let alone being able to feed their pets.

Pets, whose owners cannot afford to feed them, are often being turned into shelters, Mansour said.

Mansour said she has never heard of a pet food drive of this caliber.

She hopes to give a "doggy bag" to every needy animal, she said.

People can bring pet food items like cat and dog food, treats and dog bones to the collection bins set up at Stop and Shop locations around the area.

Mansour wanted to thank Stop and Shop for giving their support in hosting the pet food drive.

The pet food collection bins were set up this Sunday night and by Monday, Aug. 1 the bin at the Stop and Shop in Coventry

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# Drive aims to help needy pets

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was already almost half full.

Mansour said she will be checking and monitoring the bins and will be taking an inventory of what is received.

Mansour hopes the event will be a success this year and also plans to make it an annual event.

She hopes to spread out to even more branches of Stop and Shop next year, she said.

The Janet's Doggy Bags Pet Food Drive started on Aug. 1 and will go until Aug. 14.

Collection bins have been placed at the Stop and Shop locations at 900 Tiogue Avenue in Coventry, 575 Greenwich Avenue in Warwick, 90 Frenchtown Road in North Kingstown and 200 Atwood Avenue in Cranston.

"It really is going to impact a lot of needy people and animals throughout the state," Mansour said.